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* THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Whatever may be your ruling, Sir, if the hon. Member has a grievance about the matter, I would request him to send it up to Government. They will look into the matter and there is no need to make a motion for adjournment."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have heard the hon. Member. I really sympathize with those poor people who have been evicted from their lands. I am not going to enter into the merits of the matter. As far as the Chair is concerned, the question is whether it can be admitted as an adjournment motion or not. I really sympathize with those who have been evicted, but I know that our sympathetic Chief Minister will look into it and do justice to them. Let me point out to the hon. Member that he himself told me that the evictions took place in June last, and so the question has been there for the last six months. So, it is not an urgent matter and I rule it out of order."

(2) ELECTIONS TO MINOR PANCHAYATS BY SHOW OF HANDS.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Two hon. Members have given notice of adjournment motions, more or less on the same lines. Let me first take the adjournment motion of Sri Sankarayya. The motion reads as follows :— 11-40 a.m.

' This House stands adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the impending elections to the minor panchayat boards in the State of Madras by show of hands instead of by secret ballot which is the recognized democratic method.'

Let me hear what the hon. Member has to say on this motion."

*SRI B. SANKARAYYA :—" ఇప్పటికే యీ మైనరు పంచాయతీ ఎన్నికలు ప్రారంభించినట్లు తెలుస్తున్నది. ఈ విధంగా యీ ఎన్నికలు ప్రారంభించినట్లయితే అప్పుడు రాష్ట్రములో అనేక గ్రామాలలో చాలా అరాచక పరిస్థితులు ఏర్పడేటటువంటి ప్రమాదాలు ఉన్నవి. అందువలన యిప్పుడు ఈ అసెంబ్లీలో ఈ రోజు కార్యక్రమము ఆపుదలచేయించి, యీ ఎన్నికల విషయం ముఖ్యంగా చర్చించుట అవసరమైయున్నది. ఇప్పుడు ప్రభుత్వమువారు జరుపుతున్న పంచాయతి ఎన్నికలు ప్రాథమికమైనటువంటి ప్రజాస్వామ్యానికి విరుద్ధముగా నడుపబడుచున్నవి. ఈ విధంగా ఎన్నికలు పెట్టడమనేది మన రాష్ట్రములో పెద్ద ప్రమాదమైనటువంటి అశాంతిని అల్లకల్లోలములను రెచ్చగొట్టటానికి దారి తీస్తున్నది. ఇప్పటికే ప్రతి గ్రామములోనూ, ప్రజలలో కక్షలు, పెద్ద పెద్ద కొట్లాటలు పార్టీలు బయలుదేరినవి. ఇప్పుడు యీ ఎన్నికలు జరిపే పద్ధతినిబట్టి గ్రామాలలో కొట్లాటలకు అవకాశము యిస్తున్నవి. యీ ఎన్నికలకు బహిరంగంగా చేతులు ఎత్తే పద్ధతి సౌమ్యమైన పద్ధతి కాదు. రహస్య ఓటింగు ఉంటేనే ప్రజాశాంతికి రక్షణ యివ్వగలదు. బహిరంగముగా చేతులు ఎత్తే ఓటింగు పద్ధతి తక్షణము మానివేయించవలసియున్నది. అందువలన యీ ఎన్నికల పద్ధతి సక్రమమైన పద్ధతి అగునో కాదో సభ్యులందరును, ప్రభుత్వమువారును గుర్తించవలసియున్నది. అందుకనే నేను యీ అవసరమైన adjournment motion ను తెచ్చియున్నాను. గనుక యీ దినము నా తీర్మానము అత్యావసరమైన తీర్మానము గనుక సభా కార్యక్రమము ఆపుదలచేయించి యీ తీర్మానము చర్చించవలసియున్నది.

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ఇప్పటికే గ్రామాలలో ఎన్నికలు ఆరంభము చేయించారు. ఇకమీదట అయినను గ్రామాలలో దెబ్బలాటలు కక్షలు ఆపుదలకు ప్రభుత్వమువారు ప్రయత్నించవలసి యున్నది. ఈ ఎన్నికలు తక్షణం ఆపుదలచేయించి, సక్రమ మార్గములో ఎన్నికలు జరపనిఎడల యింకా గ్రామాలలో అనేక కొట్లాటలు జరుగును గనుక నేడు నేను తెచ్చిన తీర్మానమును బలపర్చగలందులకు సభ్యులనందరిని విన్నవించుచూ, ప్రభుత్వము వారిని నా తీర్మానమును అంగీకరించవలసిందని కోరుతున్నాను."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. the Leader of the Opposition may give a gist of his speech."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Apart from the gist of his speech which I have not entirely followed, I agree with the hon. Member who has moved this adjournment motion that this relates to a very urgent and definite matter of public importance."

MR. SPEAKER:—"This matter has already been discussed here."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"This matter has already been raised on the floor of this House only by way of interpellations."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member who gave notice of this motion has already raised this point when the District Boards (Amendment) Bill was under discussion in this House and the Hon. Minister replied to that point. Therefore it is not a new thing."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"That matter incidentally arose in connexion with that Bill. The subject-matter of the Bill was only an extension of the life of District Boards. The real question which is now of very urgent public importance is the coming election to panchayats which is going to be conducted under a system of voting by show of hands."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Is it a new thing?"

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"It is a new thing. Originally it was proposed to hold the election by secret ballot. Subsequently it was changed to voting by show of hands, and repreesntations were made in that regard and the attention of the Hon. Minister had been drawn not only by hon. Members from this side of the House but also from the other side. Sir, this voting by show of hands in nearly 7,000 panchayats will lead to great friction and therefore this matter must receive the immediate attention of the Government. We are now only forewarning the Government that if they conduct the elections in this manner, they will be leading to a condition which they can avoid by appropriate action now. That is the urgency and that is the definite matter. It has not been previously discussed. As a substantive thing it has not been discussed, except perhaps some questions were put and some kind of answers were given. We did not bring a non-official motion. There is no Government motion on the Agenda for taking the opinion of the House on this particular matter. I say, in the interests of the people of this State, and in order to allay the

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anxieties of hon. Members not only on this side but also on the Government side with regard to this particular matter, the Chair might be pleased to give a ruling that it is entirely in order.

"Also, I would tell the Government that this is a matter on which they can agree to a discussion. After all, the discussion is only for two hours and we might take up this motion at 4 o'clock. I believe, the Hon. the Chief Minister also is not absolutely unaware of the conditions created by the change in the system of voting and a discussion of this kind will certainly be useful. Voting by secret ballot is the very essence of democracy. If this system of voting is changed, it will only lead to friction and breaking of heads almost near polling booths. This is a matter which should immediately arrest our attention and I submit that it is absolutely in order. It is not a vote of censure against the Government."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"It amounts to vote of censure."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"I am not one of those who subscribe to that view."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"Whether the hon. Member subscribes to it or not it is so."

* Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"I submit that an adjournment motion is not always to be treated as a vote of censure. It is for drawing the attention of the Government to a matter of urgent public importance so that it may be possible to arrive at some reasonable understanding by which peace in the State can be maintained, and at the same time the election procedure can be satisfied. Therefore, I submit that it is in order. The Government must not have any rigid view on this matter. Let us have a two-hour discussion and something might emerge. I hope the Hon. the Chief Minister will agree to it."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"If it is the desire of this House and if the Hon. the Chief Minister and the hon. the Leader of the Opposition can come to an understanding, the Government themselves can bring forward a motion of this kind. They can do it."

* Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—"That is one of the methods. Sometimes an adjournment motion is the method to discuss a matter of urgent public importance. Once more, at the risk of repetition, I request the Government to accept this motion."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"I want to know the opinion of the Hon. the Chief Minister on this motion."

* The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Sir, I am sorry that an anticipated discussion of this kind as to trouble arising at election time here and there is likely in itself to encourage and produce the result which is sought to be avoided. We have followed a certain policy and issued directions and the election is imminent. If and when trouble arises we had better discuss the question. If beforehand we discuss, the apprehended

trouble will arise. If we discuss the policy and the policy is not agreed to, then trouble is encouraged. For that reason, I am sorry, I cannot accept the adjournment motion. But, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition said, my mind is open and we shall look into it when trouble arises and let us not excite trouble now."

Mr. SPEAKER:—" I remember a question was put on this subject and I allowed 15 minutes for that question. Again when the District Boards (Amendment) Bill was under discussion the same question was put and the Hon. Minister for Local Administration answered it. In the circumstances, it is not an urgent matter. It has already been discussed in this House in some other form though not in this form. Therefore, I rule this motion out of order."

Mr. SPEAKER:—" Let me now take up the adjournment motion of Sri Ranga Rao. I am not going to allow the hon. Member to speak on his motion as it is on the same lines as the previous one on which a ruling has been given. The motion reads as follows:—

'This House be adjourned to discuss a specific matter of urgent public importance, namely, the policy of the Government in conducting the elections to the minor panchayats by open show of hands as it will result in the disturbance of the peaceful life of the villages creating increasing bitterness and inimical factions in the villages and as it is *ultra vires* of the fundamental democratic right of free voting given by the Constitution.'

So far as matters relating to elections to minor panchayats are concerned, my ruling with regard to the previous motion holds good for this motion also. As regards the latter portion of the motion, the question whether a particular matter is *ultra vires* of the Constitution has to be decided by the courts."

Mr. SPEAKER:—" Some other hon. Members have also given notice of adjournment motions to discuss matters of urgent public importance. I will take them up to-morrow as I have no time to go through them."

IV.—MOTION FOR TRANSACTION OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS ON A NON-OFFICIAL DAY.

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" Sir, to-morrow Thursday, which is allotted for Non-official Business may be taken up for Official Business and in its stead, the next day, that is 28th November, may be allotted for Non-official Business. I move—

> '*That rule 24 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Thursday, the 27th November* 1952.' "